

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A nontoxic environmentally compatible insect deterrent composition comprising, a solution or dispersion of a surfactant in an amount sufficient to interfere with vital functions of an insect and a nontoxic water soluble or dispersible thickening agent admixed therewith, such that the insect is debilitated or killed thereby when the solution is applied to the body of the insect.
  2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is a water soluble or dispersible carbohydrate for increasing the viscosity of the composition.
  3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the surfactant is a synthetic organic surfactant.
  4. The composition of claim 3 wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of a nonionic, amphoteric, and cationic surfactant.
  5. The composition of claim 4 wherein the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of protein, carbohydrate and water soluble or water dispersible synthetic polymer.

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6. The composition of claim 1 including a source of biocompatible cations selected from the group consisting of the alkali metal ions of potassium and sodium, the alkali-earth metal ions of calcium and magnesium and a water soluble or dispersible cation that contains boron or copper.

7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is applied to the body of the insect by being formed into a spray that is sprayed into the air to form an aerosol.

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8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition includes a thickening agent and a source of cations for thickening the consistency of the composition.

9. The composition of claim 1 including a biocompatible preservative for extending the shelf life thereof.

10. A method of debilitating or killing insects comprising the steps of:  
providing an aqueous composition for debilitating or killing an insect,  
sensing the presence of the insect and  
spraying the composition in the direction of the insect.

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11. A method of debilitating or killing insects comprising the steps of:  
providing an insect control composition according to any of claims 1-9,

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sensing the presence of the insect, and  
spraying the composition in the direction of the insect.

12. The method of claim 10 including, providing a sensing means for sensing the presence of the insect and placing an insect attractant proximate the sensing means for drawing the insects toward the sensing means.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the attractant is selected from the group consisting of a plant extract, perfume, an animal component, pheromone, carbon dioxide, heat, water vapor and light.
14. The method of claim 12 wherein the composition comprises an aqueous solution or dispersion of a surfactant in an amount sufficient to interfere with vital functions of an insect and a nontoxic water soluble or dispersible thickening agent admixed therewith, such that the insect is debilitated or killed thereby when the solution is applied to the body of the insect.
15. The method of claim 10 including, providing a control circuit for sensing insect sounds between about 50 Hz and 1500 Hz and spraying the composition responsive to insect sounds sensed by said circuit.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein the composition comprises an aqueous solution or dispersion of a surfactant in an amount sufficient to interfere with

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